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REMARKS

In a Decision dated June 18, 2007, the Board of Appeals sustained the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,317,871 (Andrews). (Muckley). The Board of Appeals, in a subsequent decision dated November 20, 2007, granted in part a request for rehearing, and modified the language used in the original Decision, but maintained the affirmance of the rejection of the claims.

Applicants are herewith filing a Request for Continued Prosecution (RCE) to continue the prosecution of this application. This Amendment is being submitted to amend independent claims 1, 6 and 10 and to add new Claim 18, which is dependent from Claim 1. More specifically, Claims 1, 6 and 10 are being amended to describe the templates in more detail.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3 and 5-18 presented herewith patentably distinguish over the prior art because the prior art does not disclose or render obvious the way in which the templates are created and used as described in Claims 1, 6 and 10.

The present invention relates to a method and system for processing text files in computer application. In accordance with this invention, a plurality of templates is created from samples of the text file. In this way, each of the templates has literal fragments of the text file, and each of the templates includes substitution points that are filled in with application data. Also, when the format of the text file changes, the templates are changed. In addition, one or more macro classes are provided to map data from the text file to the computer application. Pointers to the macro classes are embedded in the templates.

In operation, a template is used as an overlay to parse the text file into segments having data, or as a prototype to generate a segment of an output file. During this operation, when a pointer to a macro is reached in the template, that pointer is used to invoke the macro class, and this macro class is used to map data from one of the segments of the text file to the computer application. The macro class then invokes another template to further process the text file.

Andrews, et al, which was the only reference relied on by the Examiner to reject the previous claims, describes a procedure for translating source code from one high-level computer language to another. In accordance with this procedure, pieces of a source file that were generated in different translation sessions are combined, and textual consistency of each piece of generated code in the resultant code files is ensured. As described in Andrews, et al, fragment templates and partition templates are extracted from a source language text file, and a check is made for textual consistency of the target language code generated for each partition template. The described process then forms a target language code file from the partition templates, and combines pieces of the target language code file that were generated in different translation sessions.

Andrews, et al. describes in some detail, one particular translation process referred to as the Rosetta Translator, which is used to translate code from the portable Transaction Application Language (pTAL) to the C++ language. This Translator uses a syntax tree representation and a token mechanism. A source language syntax tree is used to represent the syntactic structure of a virtual source, and a source language fragment tree is employed to represent the virtual source production mechanisms that were used to create the virtual source. Tokens are placed on the leaves of the syntax tree; and each of these tokens is also used as a

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leaf of the fragment tree, and indicates which virtual source production mechanism brought it into the virtual source.

There are a number of important differences between the present invention and the procedure disclosed in Andrews, et al, and in particular, the templates used in the present invention are very different from the templates used in Andrews, et al. For instance, while the templates used in Andrews, et al. may have literal fragments of the text file, these templates are not created from samples of the text file, as they are in the present invention. Also, in the present invention, the templates are changed when the format of the text file changes. This may be used to ensure that the proper mapping is achieved even as the text file itself changes. This type of template change is not disclosed in, and is not obvious in view of, Andrews, et al.

Independent Claims 1, 6 and 10 are being amended to describe more expressly these aspects of the instant invention. Each of these claims describes the features that the templates are created from samples of the text file, that each of the templates includes substitution points that are filled in with application data, and that the templates are changed when the format of the text files changes.

These templates are of significant utility because they effectively address a number of important issues, and in particular, they help to ensure the proper flow of control needed to process the text file appropriately.

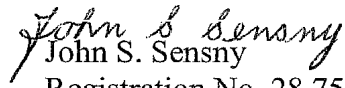
The other references of record have been reviewed, and they too, whether they are considered individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the templates described in Claims 1, 6 and 10.

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In view of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 6 and 10 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, Claims 1, 6 and 10 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2, 3, 5, 14, 17 and 18 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 1. Similarly, Claims 7-9 and 15 are dependent from Claim 6 and are allowable therewith, and Claims 11-13 and 16 are dependent from Claim 10 and are allowable therewith. The Examiner is, accordingly, requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102, and to allow these claims and new Claim 18.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application in condition for allowance, a notice of which is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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